

Security Assistance in Post 9-11 Era “The Bahraini View”

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50° 40'

Introduction

- Background Information on Bahrain
- US-Bahrain relations
- Contributions of FMS Programs to Bahrain
- Post 9-11 Issues
- Conclusion

Background

- Population
- Strategic Location
- Development and Education
- Member of International Organizations
 - Political
 - UN (1971)
 - Arab League
 - GCC
 - Economic
 - International Labor Organization, ILO (1977)
 - World Trade Organization, WTO (1995)
 - World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO (1995)

Long US-Bahrain Relationship

- Early 1900s
 - American Mission Hospital
 - 1932 Oil exploration and production, BAPCO
- Political-Military
 - Support to US Navy since 1949
 - Iraq-Iran War
 - Reflagging Kuwaiti tankers
 - Gulf War allies
 - Host to UNSCOM inspection teams and post-Gulf War support
 - Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) signed in 1992
 - 5th Fleet home ported in 1995
 - Early, strong support to Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)
 - Major Non-NATO Ally status October 2001

Recent Political Developments

- Transition from a tribal democracy to a modern democracy
 - National Action Charter approved by 98% vote
 - Constitutional Monarchy established 14 February 2002
 - Separation of Executive, legislature and judicial powers
 - Elected House of Representatives
 - Appointed Shura (consultative) council
 - Voting rights for all citizens, men and women
 - Elections: Municipal (9 May) and legislative (24 Oct)
 - Human Rights Committee to guarantee fair treatment and tolerance
 - Citizenship for all who qualify

Contributions of FMS Programs

- No natural threat, thus Defense Force
- Since Iraq-Iran War and the creation of the GCC, increased priority on active partnership in regional, US and International
 - Active partner with limited financial resources requires prioritization, rational acquisitions approach
 - FMS: best way to meet requirements, fill gaps
 - EDA: filled big gap, complements sales
 - IMET: critical, meets most but not all training requirements
 - FMF: new, still learning how to maximize
 - DCS: limited use, for small programs or specific needs
 - MTTs: great effectiveness for complex systems
 - Office of Military Cooperation (OMC) critical link for success of Security Assistance mission
 - **BOTTOM LINE: FMS programs fit Bahrain's Interoperability and regional defense requirements**

Bahrain's Role in the Global War On Terrorism

- **Political Cooperation**
 - Among first nations to denounce
 - Support of UN resolutions
- **Military Cooperation**
 - Liaison Officer to CENTCOM
 - SABHA frigate support to operations
- **Intelligence Cooperation**
 - Military Intelligence sharing
 - Civil police cooperation
- **Financial Cooperation**
 - Bahrain Monetary Agency regulations and new legislation
 - Combat money laundering,
 - Seek out and shut down terrorist accounts, and
 - Monitor charitable money transfers outside Bahrain

Post 9-11

Security Assistance Issues

- War Against Terrorism requires Integration of national assets: expensive in people and equipment
 - Dissimilar organizations (MOD, MOI, Police, Fire Dept) must cooperate against a fluid, non-traditional, multinational threat
 - May require advanced technologies
- Critical to control “ungoverned areas”
 - Lawless areas
 - Illegal financing
 - Heightened importance of Border Guard / Coast Guard / Immigration duties
 - Surveillance, interdiction: Security Assistance Can Help
- Security Assistance (SA) programs support MOD: Is it time to expand the SA scope to respond to the threat?

Post 9-11 Security Assistance

- **DON'T Change:**

- US Security agreements: mutually beneficial and permit conditions for advances in other fields
 - Education
 - Business
 - Medical
 - Tourism
- OMC presence in-country
- Strong people-to-people contacts

- **IMPROVEMENTS Possible**

- Regional defense and cooperation: improve responsiveness
- Continue trends toward interoperability to improve cooperative defense military capabilities

Post 9-11 Challenges

- Homeland Security: expedite reform efforts to
 - provide US security AND ensure positive experience
- Reverse the trend toward isolationism
 - Establish procedures for foreign visitors to enhance business, education, medical and tourism ties
- Despite cultural differences, “silent” Bahrain majority supports US anti-terrorism campaign
 - Resist temptation to erect barriers
- Call for International Human Rights standard
 - Strengthen International Human Rights organizations to encourage countries to accept International Human Rights standard
 - Gradual growth to international standard

Conclusion

- US and Bahrain have maintained long, mutually beneficial relationship
 - Relationship has been helped by a mix of FMS programs
- Bahrain remains with the US, committed to the Global War On Terrorism
- Post 9-11 environment may require changes to FMS Programs
 - Ensure FMS program changes still meet program objectives

Questions?